

AUG 25 1930

# NEGRO PROBLEM AGAIN ACUTE AS LYNCHING RECORD GAINS

Lack of Jobs and "White  
Supremacy" Disturbing  
Factors

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 25 (U P).—The Negro problem once more is disturbing parts of Dixieland.

Industrial depression, with consequent unemployment, and agitation of so-called "white supremacy" organizations are chief among immediate causes of present perplexity.

The underlying cause is the economic and social situation in many parts of the South. It is a direct development of that day in 1619 when a Dutch trader sold twenty slaves to the colonists of Jamestown, Va., thereby implanting Negro slavery as an institution which was to endure in the United States for nearly 250 years.

The tensivity of the situation has had expression in ten or more lynchings—quite probably a dozen or fourteen—so far this year, and a number of other demonstrations against the colored people, which, through counsel of cooler heads, or for other reasons, did not end in actual violence.

## CALM MINDS NEEDED

The lynching record for the year, to date, already has passed that of 1929, when only ten lynchings were recorded. One can find many thoughtful individuals who fear that the remaining months may be worse, unless calm minds can exert a powerful leadership.

At Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Monroe N. Work has figures which show that since 1882 there have been 1,352 white persons and 3,390 Negroes lynched in the United States. Only four States, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont, have not at one time or another in those years gone outside the law to reap revenge.

To understand the present state of mind in parts of the Southern States, one must remember that close to 40 per cent. of the total population south of the Mason-Dixon line is black. Two States, Mississippi and South Carolina, are more than 50 per cent. black. In 200 counties out of 1,364 in the Southern States, Negroes are in the majority.

## MUCH ILLITERACY

Approximately 20 per cent. of the Negroes are illiterate. There is little provision to combat feeble-mindedness, perverted development and

insanity. Those things are most often reached through the schools, and in the case of the mentally deficient Negro he is usually the illiterate who does not come in contact with the school.

Yet the problem is not acute to the point of violence in all parts of the South. Virginia has not had a lynching or other show of violence this year. In Louisiana there has not been a lynching in more than two years. In many sections there seems to be apparent content. South Carolina and Georgia, perhaps, are the centres of greatest tension and agitation, and Atlanta, a city with a large industrial population of both races and chosen centre for racial agitation, would appear the point of maximum unrest. It was there that the remark of a laborer may have epitomized the present situation.

He pointed to a Negro mail carrier.

"See that fellow," the laborer said, "he's getting sixty cents an hour. Why should that black man be getting sixty cents an hour for carrying the United States mail while white men are out of jobs?"

NEW YORK TELEGRAM

cation, Is Belief.

By MORRIS DE HOVEN TRACY,  
United Press Staff Correspondent.

ATLANTA, Aug. 26.—There are many sober-minded men in Atlanta who believe the city is spending the summer "sitting on a powder keg," so acute do they consider agitation of the racial problem here.

Only a few weeks ago, it is generally admitted, effective action by the police, cool-headed counsel by the press, and careful manipulation by the government of the community narrowly averted what might have been a dangerous outbreak.

Today the same elements which made for trouble at that time remain and probably they will long remain. "What would it take to start trouble?" the United Press correspondent asked one of the best informed students of the situation.

"A 25 per cent increase in unemployment would do it," he said, "and so would a fit of hysterics by an irresponsible woman."

## Rumblings in Atlanta.

For several months there have been rumblings in and around Atlanta. Then seven men beat to death the son of a Negro minister, accusing him of having insulted a white woman. Six of the seven were arrested. Two days later the home of the dead Negro's father was burned.

It became an open secret that many citizens, at that juncture, began oiling their guns.

One of the six men was brought to trial in a court room where one-half of the spectators' section was allotted to whites and one-half to Negroes. The case went to the jury on a Saturday. The town was full of idle men, some out of work, some enjoying their Saturday holiday.

## Uneasy Night in City.

Just how many of those idle men were armed and ready for trouble will never be known, but it is a fact that Atlanta spent an uneasy night. Police made ready for any eventuality. Literally hundreds of more law-abiding citizens refused to leave their homes. By 10 P. M. streets ordinarily crowded of a Saturday night were nearly deserted, while others were given over to groups of sullen men, which police did not

best to disperse quietly. Negroes remained within their houses.

But by Monday the temper of the hotheads had cooled and it was then, and only then, that the court permitted the jury's verdict in the murder case to be unsealed and read. It was a verdict of guilty.

With the reading of the verdict, Acting Mayor G. Everett Millican felt the situation so acute as to require him to issue a public appeal to the citizenry to "set their faces against every person and faction seeking to embroil the races in trouble."

## Warns Against "Incendiaries."

"It appears that incendiary and provocative actions are going on in the community with the view of destroying the harmony and peace and safety of our people, white and black," he said. "There is no danger threatening either race in Atlanta other than these irresponsible small factions who are seemingly unconscious of the firebrands they are bearing."

He gave assurance of the capability of the Police Department.

"Officers of the law," he concluded, "of every capacity will give prompt and full enforcement of the laws to preserve the peace and dignity of the State."

At the same time the Colored Committee on Church Co-operation, one of the strongest Negro bodies in Atlanta, appealed to the Negro population.

"This committee admonishes and advises the colored citizens of Atlanta against giving currency to unfounded rumors and to exercise that self-control and demeanor," it said, "expected of all good citizens, to the end that peace, good will, law and order shall prevail in our community."

## "Danger Has Not Passed."

As the days passed without untoward incident, Atlanta rested more easily. But today, when a leading citizen, in closest touch with the situation, was asked if he felt all danger was gone, his reply was:—

"No, the danger has not passed. But it is not immediate. By that I mean that three weeks ago I was saying, 'it will be tonight' and every night my telephone would ring and there would be people telling me the trouble had started."

"But now I feel and I know many others feel that trouble is not to be expected at any particular time. Yet we feel that its shadow still hangs over us and unless we have strong leadership and considered judgment there may be tragedy."

AUG 26 1930

# RACE RIOTING PERIL HANGING OVER ATLANTA

"City Sitting on a Powder  
Keg," Many Sober-Minded  
Residents Say.

PASSED CRISIS RECENTLY

But Another May Develop at  
Any Time on Slight Provo-



Riots-1930

Missouri.

# COLORED CITIZENS ASKED TO RETURN TO STE. GENEVIEVE

White Residents in Meeting  
Promise Protection and  
Volunteer to Act as Deputy  
Sheriffs to Assist in  
Keeping Order

Shift Blame On Outsiders  
For Driving Negroes Away

Declare "Irresponsible Parties,  
Not Representatives of Our Community"  
Were Instigators. Six Held in  
St. Louis Jail, Under Federal Charge.

After the colored residents had been driven from their homes in Ste. Genevieve, Mo., and United States government agents had stepped in to arrest six white men, charged with threatening a colored mail man; the good white citizens of that pioneer Missouri town settled down to realize the enormity of the injustice done its peace loving respectable colored town's people.

White and colored had lived together, worshipped together and worked together for more than a century, without a break in friendly relations, in fact, not a crime had been recorded in thirty-five years, until three colored persons, two men and a woman, were involved in the fatal shooting of two white men during a fight after the negroes took offense when the white men made indecent advances toward the woman. It was an underworld affair which concerned, not residents of the town, but persons living in camps connected with a lime kiln

works and a rock quarry. Bands of armed white men in automobiles visited the homes of negroes, on Sunday night, Oct. 12, and warned them that they must be out of town by 4:30 p. m. the next day. The exodus was started, all leaving, with nothing but their clothing.

## Reaction Sets In

The reaction set in last Wednesday when a meeting of citizens and a special meeting of an American Legion Post was held. At these meetings a large number of citizens and legionnaires volunteered to keep order and act as deputy sheriffs. It was agreed that the colored residents should be induced to return to their homes, with a guarantee of safety and peace. The volunteers started out to reach all who had scattered to neighboring towns, some as far as St. Louis. A check-up by Argus staff men shows that nearly all are back in Ste. Genevieve.

## Shifts Responsibility

In a letter to The Argus, a high official of the Ste. Genevieve Catholic Church, states: "Some citizens took it upon themselves to request the owners of the quarry and lime kilns to pay off and dismiss their employees and the colored people of the camps left on Monday." He further states that "irresponsible people, on Sunday night, banded together, visited the homes of local colored inhabitants and, threatening them, ordered them out of their homes and out of town" (as was published in the last issue of The Argus.) The whites, mostly of the Catholic faith, to which church the negroes belong, deny any race prejudice and place the responsibility on "irresponsible parties, not representative of our community." The complete letter is published on page eight, in this issue.

Six Held Under Bond

Six white men arrested by government agents in race disturbances at Ste. Genevieve, because they were charged with having threatened Louis Ribeau, Negro mail man, if he did not leave town, were brought before United States Commissioner Burke in St. Louis Saturday, and their bonds set at \$2500 each. Unable to make bond, they were taken to the City Jail, pending preliminary hearing.

## Accused Returned To Jail In St. Louis

The three colored persons involved in the shooting at Little Rock Landing; Columbus Jennings, Lonnie Taylor and Vera Rogers; who were brought to St. Louis for safety and later taken to Ste. Genevieve for preliminary hearing; have been returned to the St. Louis jail to await trial.

## SHERIFF ZEIGLER AT STE. GENEVIEVE

All seems to be quiet at Ste. Genevieve following the "flare up" of racial feeling in that community a week ago when for a time it looked as though bloodshed in a large way was most certain. And while it is true that the situation was bad enough, in fact too bad for so peaceful a community, yet we all know it could have been and might have been much worse had not Sheriff Zeigler acted promptly in getting the accused, three negroes, out of the community and lodged safely in the city jail at St. Louis. And while we do not believe that the best way to deal with a mob is for peace officers to run or hide with their charge, yet, under some circumstances, it may be the better course to pursue. Therefore, we must ascribe to Sheriff Zeigler as having acted in good faith, for the three negroes are still alive. They might have met a violent death at the hands of the mob had not the sheriff acted as he did. Therefore, congratulations are in order.

Of course, we think that mobs are made up of cowards and, for the most part, the so-called irresponsible people of a community. And while it is true that the leaders and followers are bloodthirsty and hot-headed, yet it is also true that none of them want to die. One of the best sedatives for a bloodthirsty mob is a baptism of lead. Sometimes a firm stand and a dare from the sheriff is sufficient. But a shower or two of hot lead is a sure cure for the worse cases of bloodthirsty mobs.



Riots - 1930

## RACE HATRED AT STE. GENEVIEVE

It looks to us like something more than a "flare up" of petty prejudices as the doings of the white citizens at Ste. Genevieve against the colored citizens of that community are chronicled through the daily papers. A close up view of the situation reveals a deep seated race hatred on the part of the white people of that community against their colored brethren.

The alleged crime was merely an excuse for giving vent to a deep seated ill feeling. When a white man commits a crime, all of the white people are not ordered and driven from a community. Then, why change the order of things just because a Negro is charged with crime?

We regret very, very much that this outburst of race hatred happened in what is known as a Catholic city and community. We had begun to have quite a deal of faith in the Catholic religion. We had looked upon the Catholics as having something in common with the Negroes, in that the church was free not only of members of the Ku Klux Klan, but of the spirit of the Klan. But the happenings at Ste. Genevieve during the past week have disabused our mind on this subject.

We are told that the Knights of Columbus were the leaders in advising the Negroes to leave town and in driving them from their homes. Even the Negro parishioners were not spared. We had hoped that this was not true. We would rather hope that the Catholic Church stands for defense of its members especially. The spirit of the Klan does not recognize the spirit of the Christ. Its only God is the god of might—and might makes right.

Then, we ask the Catholics at Ste. Genevieve—Was it right to force these peaceful law abiding industrious people from their homes and from all of the worldly goods they had just because they were colored?

Surely, there is something deep seated about this race hatred that manifested itself during the week down in Ste. Genevieve County.

## MISSOURI MOB DRIVES NEGROES OUT OF THE TOWN

Journal and Guide  
Confessed Murderers

Taken To St. Louis  
For Safety

ST. GENEVIEVE, Mo.—More than 100 colored people, practically the entire darker population of this Missouri town, had fled by Monday night after the confession of three of their race two men and a woman, to the murder of Harry Panchot and the wounding of Paul A. Ritter, both white, on Sunday. The only colored families left were guarded Monday night by militiamen, called by Governor Henry S. Caulfield

at the request of Sheriff Zeigler to prevent mob action. 10-18-30

The three confessed murderers, giving their names as J. C. Lee, 28; Guy Taylor, 26; and Vera Rogers, 30, were taken secretly to the Hillsboro jail, 30 miles away, after their admission that they shot and killed Panchot, a lime kiln laborer, and shot Ritter and threw him into the Mississippi River in the course of a holdup. They admitted also to throwing rocks at Ritter when he attempted to swim to shore.

From the Hillsboro jail the three were taken to St. Louis for safekeeping. Sheriff Zeigler said he believed the feeling here had lessened and while militiamen patrolled the town early this week, no further threat of mob violence was expected.

The woman was the first to confess, and named Lee as the actual slayer. Immediately a mob formed and the rest of the colored population fled in fear of their lives.

Panchot was a service car driver and was engaged by the trio to drive them to Little Rock Boat Landing early Sunday. Ritter went along for the ride. On reaching the landing the trio paid Panchot, after said, and then started shooting. They took \$10 and a watch from Ritter and a small amount of money from Panchot's pockets. Panchot was killed by a bullet through the heart and Ritter was shot through the abdomen by a bullet which entered his spine, paralyzing his legs.

After Ritter was prevented from swimming to the shore by having rocks thrown at his head, a watchman on a boat heard his cries and rescued him while the robbers fled. This watchman also recovered Panchot's body from the shallow water. Ritter was in a St. Louis hospital in a critical condition. He is 38 years old and Panchot was 45.

## Families Flee Mobs in Missouri Town

STE. GENEVIEVE, Mo. — All but two families here fled from this town Sunday following threats of white mobs seeking vengeance for the killing of Harry Panchot, white, Saturday. 10-18-30

The only two families, who did not get out of town are heavily guarded by militiamen and J. C. Lee, Guy Taylor and Miss Vera Rodgers, said to have confessed to taking part in the killing are in a St. Louis jail where they were taken for safe keeping. 10-18-30

Governor Henry S. Caulfield called out the troops at the request of Sheriff Zeigler, who declared that angry mobs were forming to attempt a lynching. He also declared that he feared outbreaks against innocent Negro citizens in reprisal.

## FAMILIES BANISHED FROM THEIR HISTORICAL HOMES

Members of Knights of Columbus Participate in Move  
Against Their Own Catholic Church Communicants.  
Protesting Priest Ordered to Keep Mouth Shut.

St. Louis, Mo. —  
FIGHT OVER WOMAN. NO ROBBERY WAS INVOLVED

Two White Men Killed by Two Colored During Clash Over  
Indiscreet Advances Made Toward Colored Woman  
Who Had Paid Fare For Auto Trip To Little Rock, Mo.

Much has been said in the daily papers as to what happened down at Ste. Genevieve a few days ago which caused the white people of that community to rise up against the colored people.

According to the testimony introduced at the Coroner's Inquest here Thursday, here is what happened: On Sunday night the three persons under arrest, Vera Rodgers, Lonnie Taylor, and Columbus Jennings, asked the two white men, Harry Panchot and Paul Ritter, to take them to a place near Ste. Genevieve known as Little Rock for which Vera says she paid the men one dollar. Enroute, the white men began making insulting remarks to the colored girl offering her fifty cents if she would have illicit relations with them. The Negro men resented these insulting remarks and remonstrated with the white men about the same, telling them that white men would not stand for Negro men to make such advances to white women. With this, an argument and quarrel ensued. A fist fight followed. Guns were drawn, and one of the white men was shot. In the meanwhile, the other Negro man was struggling with the other white man and called for help whereupon Taylor who had shot Harry Panchot went over and shot the other white man. After the shooting, the two white men who were wounded were taken to the river and pushed in. Lonnie Taylor who confessed doing the shooting says that he drew his gun and shot the first white man after the latter had struck him in the mouth.

The peaceful, staid old town of Ste. Genevieve, Mo., 65 miles south of St. Louis on the Mississippi river, where Negro and white citizens have lived side by side in harmony during its century or more of existence, has suddenly been transformed into a seething caldron of race hatred by a crime committed by riff raff elements. Today innocent colored persons have been driven from their ancestral homes in the town and dare not return for their possessions for fear of their lives. Even the presence of National Guardsmen does not lessen their awe as only through providence did one man escape hanging after the militia had been called and returned to their home.

The local branch of the N. A. A. C. P. has taken action to aid the victims of the mob violence, some of whom are in St. Louis, and many of whom are at Coffman Mo., some miles from where the outbreak occurred. Efforts will be made to restore peace so that it will be safe for these persons, who have done nothing, to return to their homes.

**Find Truth Of Incident**

Investigation by the Argus staff men revealed some startling facts concerning the trouble in Southeast Missouri. Foremost among the findings have been:

- (1) Refuting of the report of the crime which led to the outbreak as published in the daily papers.
- (2) That members of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church to which most of the colored persons driven from town belong participated in the circulating of a petition to



order them out of town; and that their companion and the fatal fighting (this time came from Flat River, a town that does not allow Negroes to stay within its bounds.)

(3) That one of the members of the mob was one of the oldest families in the town. It was upon his advice that the defendants did not make a statement that had defied the mob's orders to dare remain on his farm had he not at the inquest. Coroner Dever questioned Sheriff Ziegler very closely regarding the confessions by the accused. It was through this questioning that Sheriff Ziegler told of some of the things leading up to the killing of the two white men.

(4) That the militia men sent, regarding the confessions by the accused. It was through this questioning that Sheriff Ziegler told of some of the things leading up to the killing of the two white men.

(5) That the governor required of the sheriff to call out the militia on the day after receiving a call from a relative of one of the Ste. Genevieve Negroes living in St. Louis.

#### Old Families Victimized

There were about 150 colored persons driven out of Ste. Genevieve. About fifty of this group were members of old families of the town who had lived there for many years without experiencing any trouble. They are the Ribeaus, Brooks, Champelles, LeJoys, Jacobs and Lewis who own of Columbus had taken communion at their homes, and the Whites, Maeks, St. Joseph Catholic Church, where Baziles, Madisons and two families both colored and white persons of the town attended, they went outside in front of the church and began to circulate a petition for one hundred persons to sign. The petition ordered all Negroes to leave town. Faced with the mob, the church attempted to keep Louis Wednesday in a highly nervous state under federal guard.

Six of the men who participated in the attack on Ribeau were arrested and held in Ste. Genevieve County jail. Prosecuting Attorney Pettigrew obtained warrants charging unlawful assembly. They were fined \$400 each, but the fine was stayed. Four of the prisoners, Louis Rhyno, Herman Stiger, H. Stockle and James Hurst, admitted their guilt.

#### Paper's Stories Harmful

The trouble in Ste. Genevieve started Saturday night when three persons were involved in the fatal shooting of two white men. Although daily papers laid the crime to robbery and played it up as cold-blooded and deliberate, an entirely different version of the affair was gained from testimony at the coroner's inquest Thursday morning.

It was brought out that the white men Harry Panchot, 48, father of 7 children, and Paul Ritter, 38, father of 4 children, had been frequenting a colored dance hall and speakeasy at Little Rock Landing where the riff-raff congregated. The colored men, Columbus Jennings, 28, and Lonnie Taylor, 32, who worked with the men at the lime kiln, were riding to the rendezvous with them accompanied by a colored woman friend, Vera Rogers, 27, of Crystal City, Mo. The Negroes took offense when the whiterising started again. The militia men made indecent advances toward

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Attacks Are Made

The news of the shooting spread like wild-fire, and Sunday the attack on the colored persons began.

The trio blamed for the shooting were captured and rushed to Hillsboro for safe keeping. While Sheriff Ziegler was in Jefferson County looking after the prisoners, spirit ran high at home.

After the members of the Knights of Columbus had taken communion at their homes, and the Whites, Maeks, St. Joseph Catholic Church, where Baziles, Madisons and two families both colored and white persons of the town attended, they went outside in front of the church and began to circulate a petition for one hundred persons to sign. The petition ordered all Negroes to leave town. Faced with the mob, the church attempted to keep Louis Wednesday in a highly nervous state under federal guard.

Sunday night bands of armed white men in automobiles visited the homes of Negroes and warned them that they must be out of town by 4:30 Monday afternoon or suffer the consequences.

#### Telephoned Governor

Mrs. Ribeau, of 4248 West Belle place, being informed of the impending danger for her relatives at Ste. Genevieve, notified Dr. T. A. Curtis, president of the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P. and was advised by him to call the governor and ask him to send troops to Ste. Genevieve. The governor got in touch with Sheriff Ziegler and learning of the real tenseness of the situation ordered national guardsmen out from Festus and DeSoto. Meanwhile the three prisoners were moved to the City jail in St. Louis for safe keeping.

#### Outbreak Renewed

Meanwhile, the colored persons working at the lime kilns and the colored town's people had been frequenting a colored dance hall and speakeasy at Little Rock Landing where the riff-raff congregated. The colored men, Columbus Jennings, 28, and Lonnie Taylor, 32, who worked with the men at the lime kiln, were riding to the rendezvous with them accompanied by a colored woman friend, Vera Rogers, 27, of Crystal City, Mo. The Negroes took offense when the whiterising started again. The militia men made indecent advances toward

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and the trio were arrested, following the communion in the Catholic Church where both races attended. Dr. Clapsaddle, white physician, and other members of the Knights of Columbus, circulated an order for all colored citizens to leave town.

That night bands of whites rode through the neighborhood telling the citizens that they must be out by 4:30 the following day. More than 150 families, many of them having lived there most of their lives were driven out. Louis Ribeau, who at first refused to leave, barely escaped lynching at the hands of the mob Tuesday night.

Six Arrested

Six of the white men who are said to have participated in the riot were arrested and fined \$400 on a charge of unlawful assembly, but the fine was stayed. Troops were called out by the governor after Dr. T. A. Curtis, president of the N. A. A. C. P., told him of the tense situation.

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 1900

It Started when Six White Men Made Proposals to Colored Girl.

150 HOMELESS

Charge Catholics Aided in Ste. Genevieve Riots.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—That indecent proposals to a colored woman, and not robbery, was the starting point in the killing of two white men and riots which drove 150 families out of Ste. Genevieve, near here last week, was revealed at the coroner's inquest.

According to this testimony, Lonnie Taylor and Columbus Jennings shot Harry Panchot, and Paul Ritter, the latter two white, in a fight which started when they resented indecent remarks made to Miss Vera Rodgers while riding in an automobile.

Paid for Ride

The trio, the testimony showed, engaged the white men to drive them to a little town named Little Rock and paid a dollar for the services. While en route one of the men made the indecent proposal. When one of the men resented it and asked the white man would they stand for them making the same remark to a white girl, the fight began.

In the melee the two white men were shot and thrown into the river, it was said. It was also brought out at the inquest that the white men had the habit of frequenting a speakeasy and dance hall at Little Rock Landing where the riff-raff of both races gathered.

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Riots - 1930

New Jersey.

Wednesday, September 10, 1930

## Police Use Riot Guns On Mob Of Negroes

NEW ARK, N. J., Sept. 8.—A fatal quarrel among three negroes last night precipitated a street battle in which a mob of about 200 negroes was subdued by police at the point of riot guns and night sticks.

Herbert Johnson, 28, died in City Hospital after his throat had been slashed. Stacey Jackson and Clifford Jackson, brothers, Johnson's alleged assailants, were severely beaten by the mob and suffered fractured skulls and contusions. Police said two unidentified negroes who started the trouble escaped.